

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 7-11 has been noted and is appreciated by applicants.

The allowance of claims 4-6 subject to being rewritten in independent form is also noted and is appreciated by applicants.

A separate letter to the draftsman has been filed requesting approval to add the axis of rotation, reference Nos. 12 and 13, and show angle θ in Figure 3. Note that the line representing a first wall plane and a first wall crosses the rotor axis at the right end of the rotor as shown in Figure 3. Applicants' attorney apologizes for any confusion caused by the proposed amendment to Figure 1. Approval of the proposed amendment to the drawing, filed on 19 August, 2002, is respectfully requested. The corrections are believed to be correct and allowable.

Claim 1, 2 and 12 were rejected as unpatentable over Meis in view of Boboltz et al and Nielsen et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 includes a first groove wall in a first wall plane that intersects the rotor axis, a plurality of first base support surfaces that are each in a base support plane that is perpendicular to the first wall plane and wherein all the base support planes that are perpendicular to said first groove wall intersect each other.

Meis has a surface 15 which can be considered a first groove wall. A bottom wall of channel 14 is perpendicular to the surface 15. As shown in Figure 1, the surface 15 and the bottom wall of the channel 14 are both in planes that are parallel to the rotor axis 13. A person skilled in the art would consider these surfaces to be in planes that are parallel to the axis of rotation. Neither surface is in a plane that intersects the axis of rotation. The bottom walls of all of Meis channels 14 are in planes that are parallel to the axis of rotation 13. The pairs of bottom walls that are perpendicular to one of the groove walls are in parallel spaced apart planes that do not intersect each other. Meis does not show or suggest a first groove wall in a first wall plane, a plurality of first base support surfaces that are perpendicular to a first wall plane and in base support planes that intersect each other.

The Boboltz et al drum 10 has round bores or sockets 14 with flat bottoms. The bore walls are cylindrical and do not have a surface in a place or a groove extending from one end of the drum 12 to the other end. The bottom of the sockets 14 do not support or position anything. The surfaces 27, shown in Figure 3, that contact one blade 23 appear to be in a plane that is parallel to the axis of rotation 11.

The cutter of Nielson et al has a helical blade 25. The surface the blade base contacts is cylindrical so that the blade base is a fixed distance from the axis 76 along the entire length of the blade. As shown in Figure 6, the blade has only arcuate surfaces, with the possible exception of the

blade ends 31 and 32. The ends 31 and 32 of the blades 25 maybe flat. However, the ends 31 and 32 are not rectangular as shown in Figure 5.

In view of the above claim 1 is allowance over Meis in view of Baboltz et al and Nielsen et al.

Claims 2-6 are dependent upon claim 1 and are allowable together with claim 1 for reasons set forth above.

Claim 12 includes a first groove wall and a first wall plane, a plurality of first base support surfaces that are each in a base support plane that is perpendicular to the first wall plane and wherein all the base support planes that are perpendicular to said first groove wall intersect each other, and a plurality of first rectangular cutter blades clamped to the first groove wall.

Meis in combination with Baboltz et al and Nielsen et al does not show or suggest one first groove wall that positions a plurality of blades and a plurality of base support surfaces in intersecting planes that position the same blades. Claim 12 is therefore allowable.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected as unpatentable over Lovendahl in view of Baboltz and Nielsen et al. Applicants' respectfully traverse the rejection.

Lovendahl has a front face 19a that is in a plane parallel to the axis of rotation of the body 12. A wedge 20 clamps a blade 18 against the face 19a. Only one blade is clamped against a face 19a. That blade 19 extends axially outward from either the wall 13 or the wall 13' as shown in Figure 6. The bottom of the blade 18 rests on the step of the

shallow portion 16. The shallow portion 16 has a flat surface that is parallel to the axis of rotation as shown. There is only flat surface 16 associated with a face 19a for radially positioning a blade 18. There are not two surfaces 16 that position two blades 18 on one face 19a as set forth in applicants' claim 1.

Boboltz et al has one blade 22 that is clamped against a pair of surfaces 27 of a block 21. The blade 22 can be shifted to four different positions but that is still only one blade held in one socket 14.

Nielson et al has one helical blade 25 that is seated on an arcuate surface and clamped against an arcuate surface of the slot 13. The helical blade 25 has arcuate surfaces and is not a rectangular blade as explained above.

Lovendahl in combination with Boboltz et al and Nielson et al does not show or suggest the structure set forth in claim 1 as discussed above. Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1 and is allowable together with claim 1 for reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, this application as amended is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

A check in the amount of \$42 is attached in payment of the additional claims fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The

attachment is captioned VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.

The Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 12-0755.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Add claims 13, 14 and 15.